(a) Whether Government have finalised the new Pharmaceutical Policy, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the new policy aims at a shift from the Controlled to the monitoring regime; and

(d) whether any steps have been taken to make available quality and life-saving drugs at affordable prices; and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (d) Government have recently announced the "Pharmaceutical Policy-2002". The main objectives of this policy are, *inter-alia*, ensuring abundant availability at reasonable prices within the country of good quality essential pharmaceuticals of mass consumption and strengthening the indigenous capability for cost effective quality production. The policy provides for identifying the drugs for price regulation out of the basket of the items appearing in the national Essential Drugs List and those considered important from the point of view of their use in various Health Programmes, in emergency care etc. There would be monitoring of price movement in other cases.

Self-sufficiency in fertilizers

2096. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 191, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 1st March, 2002 and state:

(a) what steps have been taken in the new consumption norms for fertilizer industry, to minimize reliance on imported fertilizers; and

(b) whether these new norms are expected to move towards self-sufficiency in fertilizers and boost their exports; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The revision of consumption norms on interim basis w.e.f. 1.4.2000 was done in order to fix the consumption norms at the realistic levels, based on the actual levels achieved in 1999-2000, or the existing level, whichever is lower. Government does not expect any significant fall in production of urea on account of interim revision

of consumption norms. However, the Government is monitoring the availability *vis-a-vis* demand of urea and will take suitable steps to ensure that there is no significant gap between the demand and supply of urea.

If availability of urea happens to be more than the demand, then the Government can permit the export of urea.

Phosphatic fertilizer plant at Amjhore

2097. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Phosphatic fertilizer Plant at Amjhore in Bihar is not functioning satisfactorily and is incurring losses;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to close down the plant or privatize it;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to conduct an inquiry into the allegations of irregularities in that plant; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Amjhore unit of M/s Pyrites, Phosphates and Chemicals Limited (PPCL) has consistently been incurring loss since 1992-93 consequent to withdrawal of the Retention Price Scheme for Phosphatic fertilizers, withdrawal of the import substitution incentives, intrinsic cost disadvantage of pyrites based sulphuric acid production and increase in operating costs of deep underground mining.

(c) to (e) The revival/rehabilitation proposal of PPCL including its Amjhore Unit have been referred to the Competent Authority and further action is dependent on its decision.

Toxic Chemicals from incinerators

2098. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been brought to the notice of Government that studies abroad indicate that incinerators emit super toxic chemicals, causing health hazards;